

Submitted: April 21, 2016
Approved: April 21, 2016

**MINUTES OF THE ROCKVILLE
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
MEETING NO. 3-2016
Thursday, March 17, 2016**

The City of Rockville Historic District Commission convened
in the Mayor and Council Chambers on
March 17, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Rob Achtmeyer, Chair
Emily Correll
Anita Neal-Powell
Jessica Reynolds
Stefanie Tinch

Present: Jim Wasilak, Chief of Zoning
Sheila Bashiri, Preservation Planner
Cynthia Walters, Deputy City Attorney
Cynthia Kebba, Principal Planner
Susan Swift, Director of Community Planning and Development Services

I. AGENDA REVIEW WORKSESSION (Black Eyed Susan Conference Room)

II. COMMITTEE / ORGANIZATION REPORTS

- A. Peerless Rockville – Nancy Pickard, Executive Director
- B. Lincoln Park Historical Foundation - Anita Neal Powell
- C. Public Comments/Open Forum
 - 1. Nancy Pickard of Peerless Rockville noted that the Planning Commission recently recommended denial of the amendment of the Chestnut Lodge development, and stated that the HDC may be asked to weigh in on the proposed development in the near future. She outlined considerations that the HDC should take into account if asked for a recommendation.
 - 2. Larry Giammo of 124 Monument Street requested that HDC reconsider the courtesy review of the Chestnut Lodge development proposal. He stated that the discussion previously held was too narrow in scope, and reminded the HDC what their role should be in the process.
- D. HDC and Staff Comments – Chair Achtmeyer asked about the status of 115 West Montgomery Avenue, which seems to be deteriorating. Ms. Bashiri explained that the property manager had contacted her and she was able to explain what is required for any improvements. Chair Achtmeyer also inquired about new light fixtures at 106 Forest Avenue.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: February 18, 2016

Commissioner Correll moved, seconded by Commissioner Tincher, to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed 5-0.

IV. EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE

A. HDC2016-00785, Tsanchi Li, for an Evaluation of Significance of an existing residence at 304 South Stonestreet Avenue.

Ms. Bashiri presented the staff report and recommendation, which found that the property did not meet any of the criteria for historic designation.

Tsanchi Li, property owner, spoke in favor of the application. He wants to demolish the house and construct a new house on the property.

Commissioner Reynolds moved, seconded by Commissioner Neal Powell, to find that the property does not meet any criteria for historic designation, per the staff recommendation. The motion passed 5-0.

V. DISCUSSION

A. Discussion of Historic Preservation Report 2016. HDC members discussed the report, which describes trends and background information regarding historic resources in the City that was presented at the February meeting by Cindy Kebba. She also explained that there would be a series of Citywide worksessions on the Master Plan beginning on April 19. She encouraged a member of HDC to attend each of the sessions. Chair Achtmeyer agreed to provide assigned commissioners the following week.

Chair Achtmeyer asked how to move forward with commercial mid-century buildings, given the HDC's recent experience. He also asked how to reconcile two periods of significance in a historic district. He also raised the issue of how to honor residents who made significant contributions to the City, without designation of a property. He asked about increasing signage to denote the City's historic properties and districts, and asked whether there was an opportunity for another walking tour in the City. Both of these projects would be eligible for grant funding.

B. Old Business

C. New Business

Ms. Bashiri announced that New Mark Commons has been pursuing National Register nomination, and that the HDC would be able to comment when it is forwarded to the City.

Jim Wasilak announced that the historic preservation text amendment would be going forward to the Mayor and Council for authorization in May.

Chair Achtmeyer announced the HDC's support for the reappointment of Commissioner Neal Powell, and the appointment of an alternate.

Ms. Bashiri noted that former Commissioner Moloney had been a member of the Glenview Advisory Committee, and asked if any commissioner was interested in serving.

Ms. Bashiri announced the training session set up for the HDC and Gaithersburg HDC on May 5. She also noted that a law symposium would be held in July and put on by the Maryland Association of Historic District Commissions (MAHDC). She will be a trainer in the program.

VII. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Chair Achtmeyer adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.